

A NEGLECTED SOLIDAGO NAME.¹

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ONE of the earliest books of travel relating to the United States, is one entitled "Reise durch einige der mittlern und südlichen vereinigten nordamerikanischen Staaten nach Ost-Florida und den Bahama-Inseln, unternommen in den Jahren 1783 und 1784," by Johann David Schoepf, published at Erlangen in 1788. An English translation by Alfred J. Morrison was printed at Philadelphia in 1911.

Schoepf was a Bavarian who had studied botany at the University of Erlangen under Schreber, who later named in his honor the genus *Schoepfia*, a group of tropical trees and shrubs of the family *Olacaceae*. He came to New York in 1777 as chief surgeon of the Ansbach contingent of the German troops sent over by George III. He remained in New York until the conclusion of the war, upon which he undertook a tour of the United States, which, beginning in New Jersey, extended to western Pennsylvania, southeastward through Maryland to what is now the District of Columbia, and southward along the coast to Florida, whence he sailed to the Bahamas.

The two volumes of the *Reise* give a vivid picture of the political and physical conditions of the coastal states at that time. Schoepf was interested in all branches of natural history but gave his chief attention to the geology of the regions traversed. He made many observations upon animals and plants, and in footnotes he published descriptions of two new species of plants, one a *Houstonia*, the other a *Solidago*. His names for these were taken up by Gmelin in his edition of Linnaeus's *Systema Naturae*, but they have received no attention from other authors. Although both are listed in the *Index Kewensis*, they are credited to Gmelin and his work is given as the place of publication. While the present writer was engaged in a monographic account of the family *Rubiaceae* for the North American Flora, his attention was called to Schoepf's book by Dr. J. H. Barnhart, and as a result it was found necessary to adopt *Houstonia pusilla* Schoepf as the valid name for the species hitherto known as *H. patens* Ell.²

The *Solidago* mentioned above is discussed by Schoepf on page 466

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² N. Amer. Fl. xxxii. 29 (1918).

of the first volume of the *Reise*. His account of the plant is as follows (the English being that of Morrison's translation):

"We continued the way we had come [along the Juniata River in Bedford County, Pennsylvania], over Crossing-hill, Rays-hill, and Sideling-hill, and spent the night at MacDonald's tavern, where the coffee is drunk out of tin-ware, there are potatoes to eat, and straw to sleep upon, and a prodigiously dear reckoning.

Here we were introduced to still another domestic tea-plant, a variety of *Solidago*.¹ The leaves were gathered and dried over a slow fire. It was said that around Fort Littleton many 100 pounds of this Bohea-tea, as they call it, had been made as long as the Chinese was scarcer. Our hostess praised its good taste, but this was not conspicuous in what she brewed."

It is evident that the plant discussed is that commonly known as *Solidago odora*, a name published by Aiton in 1789, for not only does the description apply certainly to *S. odora*, but the Plukenet citation also refers to the same species.² Since Schoepf's name was published a year earlier than Aiton's, the former is the one which must be adopted. It is noteworthy that the now unfamiliar name hereafter to be applied to this plant, one of the two or three easily recognizable species of *Solidago*, is fully as descriptive and distinctive of the plant as the name it displaces, being, in fact, practically synonymous with it. The essential synonymy of the species is summarized below.

SOLIDAGO SUAVEOLENS Schoepf, *Reise Ver. Nordamer. Staaten* i. 466 (1788). *S. odora* Ait Hort. Kew. iii. 214 (1789). *S. retrorsa* Michx. Fl. Bor. Amer. ii. 117 (1803). *S. puncticulata* DC. Prodr. v. 332 (1836). The type locality is presumably in Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

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AN UNUSUAL DAUCUS CAROTA.—Miss Emily F. Fletcher recently brought to the Gray Herbarium a very striking specimen of *Daucus Carota* L. in which nearly half of the compound umbel, instead of

¹ SOLIDAGO *suaveolens*: foliis lanceolato-linearibus, integerrimis, acutis, subquinque-nerviis, punctatis, glabris, tenerrime ciliatis.—Virga aurea americana, tarraconis facie & sapore, panicula speciosissima. *Pluk. alm. p.* 389. *tab.* 116. *f.* 6.—A species similar to this grows about New York, and has a pleasant odor of anise, noticeable also in the plant here, but weaker; no doubt because it was already late in the season and it had suffered from the cold.

² Gray, *Syn. Fl. N. Amer.* i. pt. 2, 151 (1884).